

# Venus Making Trouble for Mars; Turmoil in the War Department About Overcoats at West Point

Maidens Left Chilly on  
Parade Grow  
Angry.

Mrs. Ayres Champions  
Action of the  
Cadets.

Criticises Col. Howze,  
Hence All the  
Trouble.

Had Mars, suddenly perceiving that Venus was shivering in a chill breeze, wrapped his cloak around her, probably no more would have been heard or thought of the incident.

But the gallantry of a number of West Point cadets on the parade grounds on Easter Sunday has not been so readily dismissed. The cadets, seeing that the cold—and it really was cold—caused discomfort to their sweethearts, sisters, and mothers, impulsively gave up their overcoats. The women, for greater comfort, donned them as they would their own coats, and buttoned the collars closely.

Lieut. Col. Robert L. Howze, the commandant, found time, during his scrutiny of the dress parade, to send a sergeant to the women, present his compliments, and request that, inasmuch as they were parties to a breach of paragraph 223, regulations of the United States Military Academy, they would oblige greatly by relinquishing the overcoats. This paragraph requires that cadets shall wear no circumstances loan any part of the regulation clothing.

## Trouble A-Plenty.

Straightaway there was trouble. The cadets, many with boyish natures untempered by military ambitions, did not like the action of the commander. Needless to say, the women were in a like frame of mind, only more so, for it was a cold day, and the wind had lost none of its biting nature while whistling through the Catskills on its journey south.

But there was one charming girl who set the rules and regulations at defiance, and would have utterly routed them but for the courteous tact of an old officer, who interfered in the nick of time. When the sergeant approached her—probably wishing himself on duty in the toughest quarter of the Bowery—and said, "You are ordered to take that coat off," she replied promptly, "I decline to obey that order." The imagination reels at the thought of what might have happened, but in order to avoid a situation that might have been catastrophic, the officer in question stepped up and saved the day by asking, "Won't you do that for me?"

## Girl Could Have Won.

"Yes, general, I will permit you to remove my coat—no one else can."

And we may fairly believe that no one else could, and that but for such sympathetic interposition the heroine would have carried off the honors, and would have worn the cadet coat until the close of the parade.

Colonel Howze himself has as much cause for gratitude to the old general as any one else. No one knows better than he that he could no more have enforced such an order than he could have postponed the sunset.

The cadet committee subsequently asked him: "Colonel, what would you have done had the ladies refused to remove the coats?"

"Dunno," he replied, "don't think I could have done anything."

And now there is much trouble, for, instead of a number of women being "in it," the affair has narrowed down to the old explanation—"There's a woman in it."

Instead of ending with the order of the commander, the incident has been expanded into a pretentious occurrence. The War Department at last took it up and is now investigating complaints against an officer's wife, Elizabeth Fairfax Ayres. This is the first time the department has made a woman the subject of an investigation.

## She Criticized Howze.

While no formal charges have been preferred against Mrs. Ayres, the investigation has to do with criticism made by her upon Col. Robert L. Howze. There is a technicality in the case which may have an important bearing upon the decision.

Under the army regulations, an officer is responsible to a certain degree for his wife's actions. The woman cannot be held responsible in matters such as this. Mrs. Ayres has lived at the reservation at West Point by privilege. Secretary Taft has not decided what will be done in the matter, but awaits the report of Col. Stephen C. Mills, of the Inspector General's Department, to whom the unenvied task of investigating the case was assigned.

Mrs. Ayres is the wife of Lieut. Col. Charles G. Ayres, of the Eighth Cavalry, a gallant soldier, who won the everlasting admiration of President Roosevelt at San Juan. Had it not been for Colonel Ayres' coolness and precision his command would have moved down the Rough Riders, through a misunderstood order.

## Mr. Ayres Kept Busy.

When Colonel Howze issued the order that the overcoats must be taken off by the women, there were some protests. Many thought that under the circumstances he might have been more lenient. Mrs. Ayres is a "Fairfax of Virginia." She has a son in the cadet corps. When the overcoat incident was being generally discussed, Mrs. Ayres was most outspoken. Among those to whom she

Mrs. Elizabeth Fairfax Ayres, wife of Lieutenant Colonel Ayres, who is agitating Overcoat Question.



expressed her mind was Capt. L. W. Oliver, one of the tactical officers under Colonel Howze. What she said at that time induced Captain Oliver to make an official complaint to his superior. As a consequence of this, Captain Oliver reduced his complaint to writing and the letter containing Mrs. Ayres' remarks was sent to Washington.

Immediately following the overcoat episode, a letter, sharp in criticism, and attributed simply to an officer's wife, was published in a New York newspaper. When it came to the eye of Colonel Howze, he strongly suspected Mrs. Ayres of having been the author, and wrote to the War Department charging her with having inspired it.

In the meantime, Mrs. Ayres had been busy. She had written letters to President Roosevelt, Gen. J. Franklin Bell, chief of staff, and other high officials of the department, and she did not spare Colonel Howze. Finally all the letters bearing on the case were turned over to Secretary Taft.

## Investigation Ordered.

Mr. Taft had already heard about Mrs. Ayres during her residence at the reservation, and after reviewing the correspondence he ordered that the Inspector General's Department should make an investigation of the charges made against Mrs. Ayres by Captain Oliver and those made against her by Colonel Howze. Colonel Mills is now engaged

## MILITARY FUNERAL FOR CAPTAIN KEMEYS

With full military honors befitting his rank, Capt. Edward Kemeys, the retired civil war veteran and distinguished sculptor, who died at his home yesterday morning, will be buried in Arlington Cemetery tomorrow afternoon. Private services will be held at the family residence, 1533 Twenty-ninth street northwest, at 2 o'clock.

The Rev. John D. LaMothe, pastor of the Church of the Epiphany, will officiate. There will be no pallbearers. The famous sculptor and gallant soldier will be borne to his last resting place on a caisson draped with a huge American flag.

From many cities messages of condolence and sympathy reached the bereaved widow of Captain Kemeys yesterday and last night.

Only a few relatives and friends will attend the services in the Kemeys residence. Captain Kemeys is survived by Mrs. Kemeys, a son, who is a student in George Washington University, and a brother.

## TOSSED FROM ONE WAGON TO ANOTHER IN RUNAWAY

BUFFALO, May 11.—Henry McCall had a unique escape from serious injury in a runaway. Clinging desperately to the line, while his horse was running at a rapid gait, McCall was tossed into another wagon with which his horse and wagon collided, thus probably escaping more serious injury. McCall sustained only a few slight bruises.

## Skater's Arm Fractured.

While skating at Eighteenth street and Pennsylvania avenue yesterday, Andrew Duffey, fifteen years old, of 314 Twenty-second street, fell and fractured his right arm. He was taken home by friends.

## CHARITY BALL GAME NETTED OVER \$1,000

The recent charity baseball game between the Metropolitan and Chevy Chase clubs was a decided success, and the Ladies' Auxiliary of Providence Hospital, as well as the Sisters of Charity in charge and the medical staff, were very much gratified over the entertainment for that institution, as they cleared on the game more than \$1,000. The money could not have gone to a more worthy cause. A children's free ward and hospital, a separate branch for poor children, something the hospital has needed, but up to the present time has been unable to do on account of the heavy debt it has been struggling under. Providence Hospital is one of the largest hospitals in this city, and to those who were kind enough to take an interest in its first charity entertainment the management wishes to extend heartfelt thanks, and to assure them that the benefit of the little children of this city will derive from the new ward will recompense those who were kind enough to make the game a success.

## CHICAGO'S NEW POSTMASTER.

Daniel A. Campbell, who has been appointed postmaster of Chicago, replacing Mr. Busse, elected mayor, is a senator and a prominent lawyer of the State. He is known as "the silent man," and his leadership in the senate of late years has been absolute.

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## SENATOR BOURNE HIGH IN COUNCIL

Called Most Potent Force in  
Northwest Patronage.

Constant in Effort, Senate  
Adjourns, But He  
Doesn't.

There is no doubt that President Roosevelt has taken to his bosom, in a political relationship, Jonathan Bourne, Jr., United States Senator from Oregon; there is no doubt that Senator Bourne suddenly has sprung into prominence as one of the personal advisers of the Chief Executive, and there seems to be little doubt that Senator Bourne henceforth is to be the most potent force with the Administration with reference to North Pacific Coast patronage, and matters of national import.

This is notwithstanding the fact that the Senate—that new Senators shall remain in the background and not attempt to take an active part.

When Oregonians came to Washington and wanted to call at the White House, Senator Bourne escorted them thither. Letters began to come to the Senator from Oregon constituents, and the incoming member promptly attended to these matters around among the departments. He was at all times in his own right and lost no opportunity to inform himself as to how things were done here.

Senator Bourne gained the acquaintance of both Administration and anti-Administration members. He entertained at his hotel. He has been in the political game for some time, having hob-nobbed with various parties and factions during his twenty years in Oregon politics. He began as a Republican, entered the silver Republican party, became a Populist, a Fusionist, a Democrat, then again a Republican, and he knows every sheet and spar and halcyon of the political ship. He has been at the helm many times as steering master.

## Watched the White House.

So he cultivated other Senators and Cabinet members, and bureau chiefs, and studied just as hard here in the school of Washington official politics as he did at Harvard, perhaps, harder.

But all the time he kept his weather eye on the large mansion next to the Treasury Building, where Theodore Roosevelt lives. His calls were frequent. Understanding conditions in the Pacific Northwest, he began to be one of the President's advisers. Always, he kept in mind the President's interests. He began to give out personal statements that Mr. Roosevelt would succeed himself. He told many that was his opinion.

Congress adjourned, but Senator Bourne did not adjourn. He remained in session, working like a beaver, and every day coming closer and closer to President Roosevelt and strengthening his hold on the President's affections. It is claimed that he even became an ardent pedestrian, going on long walks with the President, although he never before had especially enjoyed rambles along country paths and in wooded glens. But, in view of the President's penchant, the new Senator eschewed somewhat his leanings toward club life, and added pedestrian tours to his list of official activities.

## Northwestern Leader.

The Senator does not rush into print. Few members of the upper house are so hard to interview. He speaks when he is ready to speak; before that newspaper correspondents must wait for him. Then came the "conspiracy" dinner. There were Secretary Loeb, Senator Penrose, Senator Carter, and others. Senator Penrose, so the story ran, imbibed and spoke of a \$500,000 campaign fund to spoil the Roosevelt fortune. Even then Senator Bourne maintained silence. "No gentleman repeats conversation heard at a dinner," he said.

The sum total of his newspaper utterances has been his statement saying that Mr. Roosevelt must be renominated and one telegram to Portland, averring that he was not mixing in a mayoralty fight there, incidentally giving a homily on the proper sort of men for political appointment.

Senator Bourne has succeeded in wresting Pacific Northwest political premier-ship from all the rest of the Pacific Northwest members, although the others will be consulted. But Senator Bourne is leader so far as Northwest matters are concerned.

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## Real Country Store Prominent Feature of Elks' Rural Jubilee

Mule Race Scheduled as One of the Attractions June 6, the Opening Day—Barn Dance in Evening.

Meetings are being held nightly at Elks Hall, where the committees in charge of the various attractions are preparing for the rural jubilee and barn dance to be given at Bennings race track June 6 and 7. One of the hustling committees is the one in charge of the country store, which is to be a prominent feature of the jubilee. This store is to have a stock of the widest range, and it is promised that everybody's wants will be filled from its well-filled shelves, and that many bargains will be offered.

## Country Store Committee.

The country store committee is composed of James M. Dunn, chairman; Frank B. Clark, vice chairman; James L. Ward, secretary; Matthew Penton, treasurer; R. H. Mohler, B. L. Groves, J. C. Watson, L. D. Addison, Charles F. Herrmann, Charles H. Simpson, Edward Boardman, W. A. Yates, E. J. Murphy, James L. Feeney, Edward Swing, John A. Pierpont, Sol Morris, J. H. Leonhardt, F. W. Whitehead, Joseph Leary, J. Harry Bradley, Rudolph Reigel, John Carpenter, Julius Wenig, and William Buckley.

Another feature of the entertainment to be afforded visitors will be trotting races on the afternoon of June 6, the first day of the jubilee. The first race will be for Class A trotters, best two in three heats for a purse of \$50. The second race will be a free-for-all, open to Class B trotters and pacers for a purse of the same size.

The program will conclude with a mule race, the winner to be the last one offered.

Each owner will ride some other man's mule, and lots of fun is promised. The distance for each race will be one mile.

Chairman John C. Maxwell, of the executive committee, has arranged for the formation of a woman's committee to assist at the jubilee. The committee will be formed at a meeting of the women on Tuesday evening, at Elks Hall, E street, between Tenth and Eleventh. All the wives and women friends of members have been invited to attend.


## NEW PATROL BOXES WILL BE INSTALLED

Thirty-seven new police patrol boxes will be installed in the city. The work will in all probability be started next week. These boxes and the work of installing them will cost \$4,100, for which Congress appropriated \$4,300.

Major Sylvester, Superintendent of Police, asked for twice the number ordered, but the appropriation would not permit of it.

## COMPLAINT OF RATES ON IRON PYRITES

The Detroit Chemical Company, of Detroit, has complained to the Interstate Commerce Commission against the Baltimore and Ohio and other railways, charging that a recent increase from \$1.74 to \$2.72 per ton on iron pyrites from Baltimore to Detroit is unjust and unreasonable.




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